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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/783,904	02/20/2004	Dieter Eckardt	ECKARDT-6	7151
20151	7590	05/06/2005	EXAMINER	
HENRY M FEIEREISEN, LLC 350 FIFTH AVENUE SUITE 4714 NEW YORK, NY 10118			LAXTON, GARY L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2838	

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SM

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/783,904

Applicant(s)

ECKARDT ET AL.

Examiner

Gary L. Laxton

Art Unit

2838

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3 and 4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/20/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwesig DE 100 59 173 – (supplied by applicant) in view of Park (US 5,717,258).

Schwesig discloses a drive controller(I1, I2) for a self-commutated with converter valves (W), a drive controller comprising; converter having two half-bridges two control circuits having each an input and an output (A), wherein the input of one control circuit is operatively connected to one of the half-bridges with its converter valves, and the input of the other control circuit is operatively connected to the other half-bridge with its converter valves; a circuit assembly having an output supplying a DC voltage to the inputs of the control circuits; two switches (S1, S2) connected between an external voltage (SV) and an input of the circuit assembly; two circuit assemblies (OK1-OK6), with each circuit assembly separately supplying a DC voltage to a

corresponding input of the control circuit of a half bridge, and with one of the switches providing the external voltage to an input of one of the circuit assemblies that is operatively connected with the one switch, and the other switch providing the external voltage to an input of the other circuit assembly that is operatively connected with the other switch.

However, Schwesig does not disclose a control units providing control signals to the switches so as to control the switches in a pulsed operating mode.

Park teaches a control circuit (80 or 100) that control switches (90) by using pulsed operation in order to control the switch.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize a controller to control switches based on pulsed operation in order to turn the switch on or off as taught by Park.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1 and 2 are allowed.
5. Claims 5-12 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

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Claims 1 and 2; prior art fails to disclose or suggest, inter alia, a drive controller having first switches connected between a voltage supply and the inputs of the control circuits for switchably connecting the inputs of the control circuits to an external voltage; second switches connected electrically in parallel with the first switches in one-to-one correspondence, the connected first and second switches being decoupled from each other by decoupling diodes and forming a set of decoupled switches; and control units providing control signals to the connected first and second switches so as to alternately switch the connected first and second switches on and off.

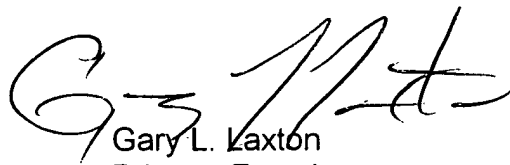
Claims 5-8 and 9-12; prior art fails to disclose or suggest, inter alia, a drive controller having a circuit assembly supplying the DC voltage that includes a rectifier, and wherein a potential separation device is connected before the rectifier and a support capacitor is connected to an output of the rectifier.

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7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary L. Laxton whose telephone number is (571) 272-2079. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Sherry can be reached on (571) 272-2084. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

 5/02/05
Gary L. Laxton
Primary Examiner
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